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IPC 021-83
29 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit of Roy S. Godson, NSC Staff

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1. Roy Godson visited the IPC Staff on 22 November for discussions with [redacted]. He spent approximately 25 minutes with the Staff members and then had to depart for classes at Georgetown University. As a result, IPC Staff members had little time to discuss in detail the topics of interest to Mr. Godson, which were the National Intelligence Topics of Current Interest and the IPC's future information requirements. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] showed Mr. Godson the list of Community products and/or projects identified by intelligence producers as being fully or partially responsive to the four NITs (i.e., NITs 28, 30, 31, and 32) of interest to the NSC Staff. [redacted] indicated that the list was a tentative one since the research planning for 1984 was not yet complete. Mr. Godson reviewed the listing rather quickly and his comments when finished suggested that he was dissatisfied with the Community's response. He was particularly annoyed at [redacted]

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3. Following our brief discussion on the substantive aspects of the NIT questions, Mr. Godson expressed some frustration that the NITs process was not providing NSC Staff members with the answers they needed. Accordingly, he wanted to know how the NSC Staff could task the Intelligence Community for the required intelligence support. In response to Mr. Godson's question, [redacted] pointed out that the NITs are not really viewed as a direct tasking mechanism and that the most effective way to get the specific answers they need would be to make a request directly to the production managers and analysts working in the substantive area of concern. Mr. Godson's response suggested that he was unaware that direct tasking is appropriate, or that this is the manner in which most Intelligence Community-NSC Staff interactions are conducted. [redacted]

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4. [redacted]

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a. Having discussed the FIRWG activities with Roy in the spring, he wanted to know what we were doing. Since our work has been technical, in support of COMIREX, I offered for his review the NIC report A View of the Future (cleared for release by NIC and the IC Staff). Roy will solicit comments that may be useful to the Community for long-range planning. [redacted]

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b. We subsequently discussed the NSC tasking mechanism and the Community's responsiveness. In the course of our discussion, I advised him of the role of the liaison officers to the NSC. He did not indicate his familiarity with their role. (I later spoke with the DIA liaison officer to the NSC who assured me of DIA's attentiveness to NSC tasking.) Roy felt that he was hearing too many questions among the NSC Staff members and not getting enough answers. I advised him that I would pursue his inquiry on tasking so that he could be assured that NSC does have an effective mechanism. ☐

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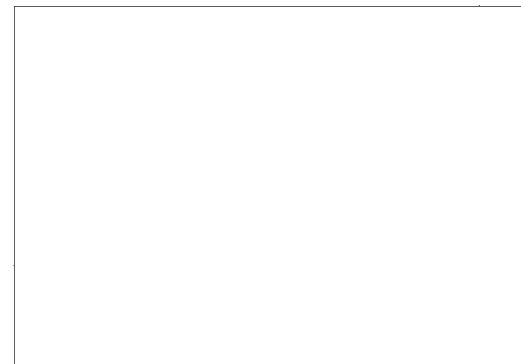
c. Roy also expressed concern that while specific questions were asked, the NITs posed a more general question. I advised him that the intent of the NITs was to reproduce as faithfully as possible the intent of the policymaker; if, however, a more specific question needed to be asked, he (Roy) should task directly. At this point he had to leave for another appointment. ☐

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d. In order to ensure that Roy understands the tasking mechanism, I will follow up on our conversation. ☐

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cc: ADDI

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Attachment C

NITS OF CONCERN TO THE NSC STAFF

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